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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VII. HUMAN RIGHTS, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Programme 35. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(19887)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 35, Promotion and protection of human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The proposed revisions have not been reviewed by the Commission on Human Rights.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

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4. The following text modifies paragraphs 35.11, 35.14 to 35.16, 35.19, 35.20, 35.22, 35.26, 35.28 to 35.36, 35.39 to 35.41 and 35.44 to 35.46 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Paragraph 35.11 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 2443 (XXII) and 45/158 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1983/9.

Paragraph 35.14 — In line 6, after "to be applied by" insert "special rapporteurs,"

Paragraph 35.15 — Add subparagraph (vi) as follows and renumber the subsequent subparagraph:

"(vi) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families".

In new subparagraph (vii), line 2, delete the remaining two lines after "United Nations".

Paragraph 35.16 — In line 9, after "Committee on the Rights of the Child," insert "the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,".

Paragraph 35.19 — In line 1, after "under" insert "special", and after "mechanisms" insert ", including the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa".

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ELIMINATION AND PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Paragraph 35.20 — Delete the reference to General Assembly resolutions 41/70, 41/128 and 44/164.

Paragraph 35.22 — Add a new paragraph 35.22 under (a) Objectives as follows and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"35.22 The objective of subprogramme 2, therefore, is to contribute, by developing tools based on international human rights standards established in the framework of subprogramme 4, Research, studies and standard-setting, to the realization of human dignity and equality, and of non-discrimination, irrespective of race, sex, language or religion."

Paragraph 35.22 (new para. 35.23) — In line 6, after "the rights of migrant workers and their families" insert ", the rights of members of minority groups".

Paragraph 35.26 (new para. 35.27) — Insert a new sentence at end of the paragraph as follows:

"Research activities in this regard will involve extensive information indexing and problem management."

Paragraph 35.28 (new para. 35.29) — At end of the first sentence, line 4, add "or harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children."

Paragraph 35.29 (new para. 35.30) — In line 1, after "more attention will be given to the" insert "realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and".

After the first sentence insert a new sentence as follows:

"In this context, educational and promotional activities, such as seminars, training programmes, workshops will be organized."

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Paragraph 35.30 (new para. 35.31) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 44/61, 44/64, 45/99 and 46/124 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1990/58, 1990/59, 1991/49, 1991/50 and 1992/80.

Paragraphs 35.31 and 35.32 (new paras. 35.32 and 35.33) — Replace paragraphs 35.31 and 35.32 with the following:

[35.31] "35.32 International instruments and standards promulgated by the United Nations, the specialized agencies or regional organizations need to be implemented at the national level. National institutions and infrastructures play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms. The development of appropriate arrangements at the national level to ensure the effective implementation of international human rights standards is therefore a main priority. Often the provisions contained in the human rights conventions are not known by those responsible for their implementation at the national level, or by the people whose rights these instruments are intended to protect. Knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all peoples is essential to ensure the ultimate success of the efforts of the United Nations towards the universal implementation of international human rights standards.

[35.32] "35.33 The strengthening of the administration of justice is an important element for improving the observance of human rights. Individuals need the protection of a functioning legal system to be able to enjoy their human rights. The establishment and maintenance of a well-functioning legal protection system and a machinery for the peaceful resolution of disputes between individuals or groups is an essential component of the basic human rights infrastructure of society. In this context, Governments wishing to set up or strengthen national infrastructures for the promotion and protection of human rights may require technical assistance. Training courses, expert advice or opportunities for the exchange of information or experiences through national, regional or international workshops are often useful for government officials dealing with human rights questions, administrators of justice and law enforcement officials."

Paragraph 35.33 (new para. 35.34) At the end of the last sentence add the following words: ", as well as the establishment of national centres for documentation and training in the field of human rights."

Paragraph 35.34 (new para. 35.35) Add a new subparagraph (a) as follows and renumber subsequent subparagraphs accordingly:

"(a) To provide support for international cooperation aimed at building up and strengthening national and regional institutions and infrastructures that will have a long-term impact on improved implementation of international conventions and other international instruments on human rights".

Paragraph 35.35 (new para. 35.36) In line 2, after "advisory services" insert "and technical assistance".

In line 3, after "for instance, in" insert "building up or strengthening national institutions, strengthening the administration and justice,".

Delete the last two sentences.

Paragraphs 35.36, 35.39 and 35.40 (new paras. 35.37, 35.40 and 35.41) Replace paragraphs 35.36, 35.39 and 35.40 with the following:

[35.36] "35.37 In this regard, it may be expected that during the medium-term plan period more national, regional and subregional technical cooperation projects will be carried out for the implementation of international conventions on human rights, and that more countries in all regions of the world will develop forms of cooperation and assistance with the Centre for Human Rights, in keeping with their specific needs. It must

also be reiterated that advisory services and technical cooperation activities can be complementary to, but never a substitute for, investigations into allegations of human rights violations called for by the competent legislative bodies."

[35.39] "35.40 During the medium-term plan period, more assistance will be provided to Member States for activities aimed at building up or strengthening national and regional institutions playing a catalytic role in order to develop or strengthen the necessary regional institutions or national infrastructures responsible for promoting and protecting human rights. Training and other supportive activities will continue to be used to provide the necessary basic information and knowledge needed in institution-building and for the widest possible implementation of human rights instruments."

[35.40] "35.41 Thus, the United Nations will contribute to the promotion of a universal culture of human rights. It will do so by increasing the awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and by assisting in the establishment or strengthening of national infrastructures for the protection and promotion of human rights."

SUBPROGRAMME 4. RESEARCH, STUDIES AND STANDARD-SETTING

Paragraph 35.41 (new para. 35.42) Delete the reference to General Assembly resolutions 41/70 and 44/164.

Paragraph 35.44 (new para. 35.45) In line 6, after "acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)," insert "human rights and disability,".

In line 9, after "interrelationship between peace and human rights" insert "genuine elections, and the international humanitarian order,".

Paragraph 35.45 (new para. 35.46) After the first sentence, insert a new sentence as follows:

"The draft declaration on the rights of members of minority groups, which was finalized by the Working Group in 1991, needs to be followed up."

In the second sentence, after "involuntary disappearances" insert ", the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms".

Paragraph 35.46 (new para. 35.47)

In the fourth sentence, after "human rights database" insert "and information network".

In the fifth sentence, after "the media" insert "through an electronic information network".